

Brewster Ladies' Library Design & Renovation Project



Request for Inclusion on the November Town Meeting Agenda

- The authorization for the Library Board of Directors to apply for, accept and expend any state grants that may be available for the cost of the library project's design, construction and equipment.
- To see if the Town accepts the Library's preliminary schematic architectural design.

Why Renovate?

➤ **Access** – Critical to Libraries

- Access to the Building
- Visual Access to Materials
- Access to Retrieving Materials



Why Renovate?

➤ **Function**

- Respond to changing needs of community
- Adequate meeting room space for knowledge sharing
- Quiet study rooms for learning & home business
- Sufficient seating for patrons & quiet reading areas
- Sufficient shelving for print & non-print items
- Adequate workroom space for staff who currently share desks with part-time staff & volunteers
- Update electrical systems for current & future needs
- Improve elevator service
- Improve acoustics
- Better sight lines

Why Renovate?

➤ Design

- Full & efficient use of space in the entire building
- Flexibility
- Welcoming & conducive to knowledge sharing
- Separate Story-Time & craft area for children
- Improve Teen space
- Reference & Research Services with areas for patron privacy
- Create “Green” facility whenever possible

Why Renovate?

➤ **Maintain History**

- Preserve the historic nature of the building
- Commit to the preservation of the 1868 historic rooms
- Controlled storage area for archives



Project History

- Feasibility Study 2013
- Focus Groups 2015
- Design Grant 2015-2016
- Community Forums 2016
- Construction Grant Application January 2017
- Grants Awarded Summer 2017
- Libraries Ranked by Need

Why Now???

- Massachusetts Public Library Construction Grants are offered on an irregular schedule. The grant cycle depends on authorizing legislature, administrative approval and availability of funds.
- To date, construction grant rounds have been announced in 1989, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2010, and 2016.

“Resurgent Libraries Turn a Whisper Into a Roar”

“Far from becoming irrelevant in the digital age, libraries...around the nation are thriving.

No longer just repositories for books, public libraries have reinvented themselves as one-stop community centers that aim to offer something for everyone.”

NY Times July 7, 2016

